

**To:** Klassman, Debra[klassman.debra@epa.gov]; Korleski, Christopher[korleski.christopher@epa.gov]; Melgin, Wendy[melgin.wendy@epa.gov]; Swenson, Peter[swenson.peter@epa.gov]; Pallesen, Reginald A.[pallesen.reginald@epa.gov]; Wester, Barbara[wester.barbara@epa.gov]  
**From:** Lippert, Allison  
**Sent:** Mon 3/19/2018 5:04:54 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Green Bay Press Gazette: Korleski letter on Back Forty

Is the letter accessible online anywhere? I did a quick search of DEQ’s website but couldn’t find it.

---

**From:** Klassman, Debra  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2018 11:26 AM  
**To:** Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; Lippert, Allison <lippert.allison@epa.gov>; Melgin, Wendy <melgin.wendy@epa.gov>; Swenson, Peter <swenson.peter@epa.gov>; Pallesen, Reginald A. <pallesen.reginald@epa.gov>; Wester, Barbara <wester.barbara@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Green Bay Press Gazette: Korleski letter on Back Forty

Also looks good to me. Thanks everyone.

---

**From:** Korleski, Christopher  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2018 10:55 AM  
**To:** Lippert, Allison <lippert.allison@epa.gov>; Melgin, Wendy <melgin.wendy@epa.gov>; Klassman, Debra <klassman.debra@epa.gov>; Swenson, Peter <swenson.peter@epa.gov>; Pallesen, Reginald A. <pallesen.reginald@epa.gov>; Wester, Barbara <wester.barbara@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Green Bay Press Gazette: Korleski letter on Back Forty

Ok by me.

---

**From:** Lippert, Allison  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2018 10:26 AM  
**To:** Melgin, Wendy <melgin.wendy@epa.gov>; Klassman, Debra <klassman.debra@epa.gov>; Swenson, Peter <swenson.peter@epa.gov>; Pallesen, Reginald A. <pallesen.reginald@epa.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; Wester, Barbara <wester.barbara@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Green Bay Press Gazette: Korleski letter on Back Forty

All, please see the inquiry below. I confirmed with Wendy that the letter is public and it’s okay for me to share with the reporter. Please review the response in red -- you all approved this language for a previous inquiry, but let me know if there’s anything to add.

**Request – Green Bay Press Gazette (Paul Srubas) – DDL 3 pm**

Please send me a copy of the letter of objection, if that is indeed what it is, concerning Aquila Resources’ proposed mine and its wetlands application to the Michigan DEQ.

I have been told it is a letter of objection, not denial, and I’m also seeking information on what that means. I sort of understand that the Michigan DEQ has permitting authority, but I don’t know whether that means “final” authority or whether the EPA can trump -- or even would if it could --- the DEQ’s decision, so I’m also seeking clarification of that point.  
EPA has the authority to object to the permit if it does not comply with the Clean Water Act and federal regulations, and MDEQ may not issue the permit unless those objections are resolved. The decision to approve or deny the permit rests with the State of Michigan. If EPA’s objections are not satisfied and the state does not deny the permit, jurisdiction to issue the permit transfers to the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Allison Lippert  
U.S. EPA Region 5  
312-353-0967